

Sub-Category B-ii: Context, Meaning, and Motive

COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2016

Table of Contents

CATEGORY B: DEFINITION & MEASUREMENT

ii. Context, Meaning, and Motive 1B-ii

1993-IJ-CX-0036: Divorce Mediation and Spousal Violence.....1B-ii

1999-WT-VX-K008: Investigating the Roles of Context, Meaning, and Method in the Measurement of Central Violence Against Women Constructs1B-ii

2000-IJ-CX-0002: Evaluation of the Transfer of Responsibility for Child Protective Investigations to Law Enforcement Agencies.....2B-ii

2001-WT-BX-0500: A Multiple Models Approach to Assessing Risk of Repeat Domestic Violence3B-ii

2001-WT-BX-0501: Explaining the Prevalence, Context, and Consequences of Dual Arrest in Intimate Partner Cases.....3B-ii

2001-WT-BX-0502: An Empirical Examination of a Theory of Women’s Use of Violence in Intimate Relationships4B-ii

2001-WT-BX-0504: The Context, Motives, and Meaning of Mutual Intimate Partner Violence4B-ii

2001-WT-BX-0505: Female on Female Violence in an Urban Area5B-ii

2005-WG-BX-0007: Stalking Victim’s Journey: Offender Patterns, Victim Help-Seeking and the Criminal Justice Response.....6B-ii

2007-WG-BX-0013: Custody Evaluators’ Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations6B-ii

2012-W9-BX-0049: Expanding Use of the Social Reactions Questionnaire Among Diverse Women7B-ii

2013-IJ-CX-0009: Using Individual Differentiation of Behavioral Patterns to Link Serial Rape Offenses: A Multidimensional Approach8B-ii

Category B: DEFINITION & MEASUREMENT

ii. Context, Meaning, and Motive

1993-IJ-CX-0036:	Divorce Mediation and Spousal Violence
Amount:	\$73,914
PI:	Jessica Pearson
Program Officer:	Bernard Auchter
Status:	Completed

This study will examine how divorce mediation programs in United States courts handles the problem of domestic violence in their caseloads using a national mail survey, telephone interviews, and in-depth studies of court mediation programs. The sites selected for the in-depth analysis and the techniques they utilize with respect to domestic violence are Santa Ana, California; Tucson, Arizona; Chicago, Illinois; Middletown and Litchfield, Connecticut; and Portland, Maine.

Product: NCJ# 164658

Divorce Mediation and Domestic Violence (1997) – J. Pearson

Using the various collection procedures, the mail survey was completed by 136 administrators of public-sector, divorce mediation programs in courts to uncover official policies and procedures for identifying and handling domestic violence, and telephone interviews were completed with 30 administrators of court-based divorce mediation programs. Based on the overview of national practices and in-depth examinations of the five programs from California, Arizona, Illinois, Connecticut, and Maine, the researcher made the following conclusions with regard to divorce mediation and domestic violence: (1) domestic violence is common in divorce mediation cases but varies greatly from case to case; (2) mediator attitudes toward domestic violence have changed through training; (3) there is a need for multiple and individualistic methods for identifying domestic violence; (4) mediation approaches have changed due to the increased recognition of domestic violence; (5) definitions of “success” in mediation are changing due to domestic violence; and (6) there has been intensive communication between the domestic violence and mediation communities. In addition, researchers found that, the reactions of domestic violence advocates are mixed and that the reaction of attorneys and judges are generally favorable.

Additional NCJ Citations: 202564

1999-WT-VX-K008:	Investigating the Roles of Context, Meaning, and Method in the Measurement of Central Violence Against Women Constructs
Amount:	\$354,494
PI:	Sarah Cook
Program Officer:	Leora Rosen
Status:	Completed

The goals of this project are to: (1) review measurement instruments and research practices that are currently used in research on violence against women; (2) determine the prevalence of violence against women constructs across contexts and propose and validate a new model; and (3) determine the efficiency of using computer-based data collection techniques for research on violence against women in correctional and health care settings. The 29 measurement instruments used in the study of sexual assault and domestic violence will be compared for areas of consensus and disagreement. A sample of 200 active researchers will be surveyed to determine most commonly employed practices and those believed to be essential to the development of a comparable empirical database. Interviews will be conducted with two randomly selected samples of a total of 400 women to determine the prevalence of victimization across contexts (conflict, control-instigated, random, and coercive). Participants will be selected from two population groups — incarcerated women from a prison, and poor urban women in non-emergency health care clinics. A new model of victimization will be developed based on the incarcerated sample and validated with the health care sample. Validity will be assessed with multiple group structural equation modeling techniques.

Product: NCJ# 212244

Self-Reports of Traumatic Events in a Random Sample of Incarcerated Women (2005) – S. Cook, S. Smith, C. Tusher, J. Raiford

As the number of incarcerated women increases, in-depth knowledge about women’s life experiences is needed to direct treatment, pre-release planning, and supervision. This study describes the nature, scope, and socioeconomic correlates of traumatic life events in a random sample of 403 women entering a state correctional facility. Ninety-nine percent of the sample reported having experienced at least one traumatic life event; 81 percent experienced five or more. Reports of several experiences differed by age, race, and marital status. The most compelling findings were related to the experience of homelessness. Women who had been without a place to live for at least seven days were between 2.19 and 5.62 times more likely to have experienced 14 of 21 traumatic events. Most of these events were defined by interpersonal violence. Implications for correctional policy are discussed, particularly the potential for incarceration to replicate or ameliorate symptoms of traumatic stress through the structure and routine of the prison environment.

2000-IJ-CX-0002:	Evaluation of the Transfer of Responsibility for Child Protective Investigations to Law Enforcement Agencies
Amount:	\$744,650
PI:	Richard Gelles
Program Officer:	Nicole Gaskin-Laniyan
Status:	Completed

Increasing demands on public child welfare agencies, concerns about the safety of children, and confusion between the law enforcement and service delivery functions has led some policy makers and researchers to recommend a separation between investigations and services within the child welfare system. In response to these concerns, Florida has become the first state in the country to pass legislation that allows for the transfers of the entire responsibility for child protective investigations to a law enforcement agency. Three counties in Florida (Manatee, Pinellas, Pasco) are in various stages of implementing this transfer of responsibility. The proposed project will compare the outcomes in the three counties where responsibility for investigations is being transferred to the Sheriff’s Office to determine whether children are safer, whether perpetrators of severe child abuse are more likely to face criminal sanctions, and whether there are impacts on other parts of the child welfare system. A randomized experiment will also be explored in one of the counties. The researchers will conduct a thorough process evaluation in order to describe and compare the implementation processes in the three counties and to identify the major factors that could have an impact on project outcomes.

Product: NCJ# 210489

Transfer of Responsibility for Child Protective Investigations to Law Enforcement in Florida: A Supplemental Study (2005) – S. Kinnevy, V. Huang, M. Dichter, R. Gelles

In May 1998, the Florida Legislature mandated the transfer of responsibility for child protective investigations in Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the Sheriff’s offices (SO) in those counties. The National Institute of Justice and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Florida DCF funded an evaluation on the impact of this change. The evaluation was completed in 2003 with inconclusive results. The findings indicate that the law enforcement intervention did not prove as successful as intended. This report presents supplemental findings to the original study and further explores under-examined or unanswered questions from the original study. This secondary analysis indicates that the transfer of investigative responsibilities to law enforcement has not had the desired or expected impact. It supports the original findings that the investigative transfer had little impact on recurrence and recidivism, although there seemed to be more convergence among all counties than had been previously revealed. The study was able to establish to some extent the percentage of perpetrators likely to experience criminal sanctions in Broward County.

Additional NCJ Citations: 189634

2001-WT-BX-0500:	A Multiple Models Approach to Assessing Risk of Repeat Domestic Violence
Amount:	\$15,000
PI:	Lynette Chow-Martin
Program Officer:	Richard Titus
Status:	Completed

This project will categorize cases from a newly available data source (the Chicago Women’s Health Risk Study) to assess how diverse risk factors affect different types of domestic violence and how those risk factors interact to influence the likelihood of a person experiencing repeat, or severe repeat, violence and another for severe repeat, intimate-partner violence. The applicant will use a recently developed risk assessment tool that features a classification-tree methodology to maximize distinctions among categories. The goal is to develop two screening tools—one for repeat violence and another for severe repeat violence—that will enable criminal justice personnel and clinicians to categorize domestic violence intimate terrorism (IT), violent resistance (VR), and mutual violent control (MVC). To assess the extent of repeat violence in each of the four categories, the applicant will calculate the base rate of partner violence, then use the multiple-models classification tree method to evaluate the likelihood of repeat violence and combine it into a composite prediction score. The application will use CHAID (Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detector) to assess the statistical significance of the bivariate association between eligible risk factors and the dichotomous outcome measure.

2001-WT-BX-0501:	Explaining the Prevalence, Context, and Consequences of Dual Arrest in Intimate Partner Cases
Amount:	\$772,189
PI:	David Hirschel
Program Officer:	Angela Moore Parmley
Status:	Completed

This two-phased project will examine the factors associated with the consequences of dual arrest in intimate partner violence (IPV) cases. Phase 1 will examine the general legal and organizational context in which police responses to IPV occur. It will involve a broad-based examination of the prevalence, general context, and variance in rates of dual arrests in 3,084 police departments in 25 states. Phase 2 will be a more detailed examination of dual arrests in six jurisdictions. The project objectives are to: (1) compare the prevalence of dual-arrest rates and examine the context of IPV cases in the United States; (2) explain the variation both in dual-arrest rates and between IPV cases and other domestic-violence cases; (3) determine the proportion of police responses to IPV that resulted in no-arrest, single-arrest, or dual-arrest outcomes and how well these responses match victim needs and preferences; (4) study the factors associated with each of these outcomes; (5) identify and examine characteristics that best predict the arrest of females; (6) describe how the criminal-justice system treats women arrested for IPV cases; and (7) examine the impact of dual arrest on subsequent reports of violence.

Product: NCJ# 218355

Explaining the Prevalence, Context, and Consequences of Dual Arrest in Intimate Partner Cases: Final Report (2007) – David Hirschel, Eve Buzawa, April Pattavina, Don Faggiani, Melissa Reuland

Arrests for domestic violence in States with mandatory arrest laws and preferred arrest laws were significantly higher than those for departments in discretionary States. These higher arrest rates were observed in acquaintance and stranger cases as well. The overall dual arrest rate was 1.3 percent. Dual arrest rates were higher for intimate partner (1.9 percent) and other domestics (1.5 percent) than for acquaintance (1.0 percent) and stranger (0.8 percent) cases. The existence of mandatory laws significantly increased the likelihood of dual arrest. Dual arrest was significantly more likely to occur in cases involving same sex couples. Although the existence of a mandatory or preferred warrantless arrest law increased the likelihood of arrest, prosecutorial decision making, and court outcome indicate that cases in States with mandatory arrest provisions are more likely not to end up in conviction than cases that take place in States with discretionary arrest laws. In an effort to combat intimate partner violence, State laws governing police warrantless arrest powers in domestic violence cases have been greatly expanded. Research indicates that the passage of mandatory and preferred arrest domestic violence laws has resulted in an increased likelihood of arrest and that increased arrest rate is in part attributable to a disproportionate increase in arrest for female either as a single offender or as part of what is known as a “dual arrest.” Dual arrest is a situation that arises when both parties involved in an incident are arrested.

Additional NCJ Citations: 218355, 229967, 242846, 245966, 218287, 221479

2001-WT-BX-0502:	An Empirical Examination of a Theory of Women’s Use of Violence in Intimate Relationships
Amount:	\$388,803
PI:	Suzanne Swan
Program Officer:	Leora Rosen
Status:	Completed

The proposed study will examine women’s use of violence in intimate relationships. The study will recruit 450 (150 white, 150 black, and 150 Latina) from four primary health care clinics in the New Haven area. Participants will be administered an approximately two hour paid interview. A comprehensive model of women’s violence, its correlates, antecedents, and outcomes will be tested. In addition to the quantitative portion of the study, nine focus groups (3 African-American, 3 Latina, and 3 white) will be conducted to qualitatively assess the role of culture, ethnicity, race, and class on women’s motivations for and beliefs about their use of violence in intimate relationships. The focus group data will contribute to understanding the occurrence, meaning, and outcomes of women’s violence within and across racial/ethnic groups and will aid in the interpretation of findings derived from the quantitative analysis.

Product: NCJ# 208611

An Empirical Examination of a Theory of Women’s Use of Violence in Intimate Relationships (2004) – S. Swan, L. Gambone, A. Fields

Quantitative interviews were conducted with a community sample of 112 white, 150 African-American, and 150 Latina women. In addition to the quantitative portion of the study, 11 focus groups were conducted to assess the role of culture, ethnicity, and race in women's motivations for and beliefs about their use of violence in relationships. To be included in the study sample, a woman must have committed at least one physically violent act against a male partner in the previous 6 months. The study examined the women's violence in the context of their victimization from male partners; and it explored women's motivations for using violent behavior as well as the strategies they used to cope with violence in their relationships. Also measured were the women's experience of childhood abuse and the status of their mental health. The study found that the women were more likely to have experienced coercive control, sexual coercion, injury, and stalking from their intimate partners than they were to have engaged in these behaviors against their partners. Many participants were apparently battered women. The women's motivations for their violent behaviors were complex and stemmed from a combination of factors. Many women used violence in self-defense, but many also used violence to control their partners, with jealousy being a frequent motivation. Poverty and a range of mental health problems also characterized the majority of women. The findings suggest that the context for women's violence against their partners is different from that of men who abuse their female partners. Understanding these differing contexts is important in tailoring an appropriate criminal justice response to domestic violence cases that involve women as perpetrators.

2001-WT-BX-0504:	The Context, Motives, and Meaning of Mutual Intimate Partner Violence
Amount:	\$499,960
PI:	Linda Marshall
Program Officer:	Leora Rosen
Status:	Completed

This project will involve an analysis of data from Project HOW: Health Outcomes of Women to test M. P. Johnson’s model of intimate partner violence. The goal is to study intimate partner violence from the perspective of low-income women in three ethnic groups (African-American, Euro-American, Mexican-American). Investigators will interview women who participated in that project, shifting the study focus from men to women. This study will address five gaps in the literature: (1) the context of IPV; (2) motives of IPV; (3) the meaning of IPV; (4) how these factors function to affect women’s health and use of the criminal justice system; and (5) the perceived mutuality of control, threats of violence, acts of violence and sexual aggression between partners will be used to evaluate whether Johnson’s typology (common couple violence, violence resistance, mutual violence control, intimate terrorism) effectively represents women’s experiences. By disseminating the results, this project will achieve the objective of impacting research and developing the knowledge necessary to enhance prevention and intervention efforts through victim assistance services and the justice system.

Product:

The Context, Motives, and Meaning of Partner Violence: Effects on Women’s Mental Health and Use of the Justice System – L. Marshall, R. Weston, J. Temple, S. Outcalt

This study addressed knowledge gaps about male and female intimate partner violence by testing a model of ten major domains: (1) women’s personal history and past victimization (distal context); (2) environment; (3) personality-state; (4) relationship (intermediate context); (5) women’s behavior for proximal content, (6) motives, and (7) emotion and intimate partner violence (immediate context) as well as their partner’s behavior for (8) proximal content, (9) motives, and (10) emotion and intimate partner violence. A total of 835 volunteers were interviewed six times since 1995 and, at Wave 6, 39.5 percent of the sample were African American, 29.9 percent were Euro-American, and 30.6 percent were Mexican American. Structural equation models were used to identify interrelationships among the domains and effects on outcomes. Outcomes were psychological and emotional distress and justice system use. The following proposed paths were supported, from (1) relationship to proximal content, (2) proximal content to motives and emotions, (3) motives to emotions, (4) emotions to distress, (5) and environment to relationships and justice system use. Patterns differed by perpetrator of violence and ethnicity.

2001-WT-BX-0505:	Female on Female Violence in an Urban Area
Amount:	\$14,878
PI:	Nancy Hirschinger
Program Officer:	Leora Rosen
Status:	Completed

The aim of the proposed study is to examine female-on-female assault in a population-based study of predominately black woman living in an urban, low income area. The study respondents originally were interviewed in hospital emergency departments after seeking medical treatment for intentional interpersonal injuries. This research is one of the first studies to examine female-on-female assault across a range of non-intimate relationships including family members, friends/acquaintances and strangers. It is well established that violence is a major health problem for black women, yet little is known about black women’s involvement in assault with other women. The major goals of this dissertation are to characterize the circumstances surrounding non-intimate female-on-female urban violence and to develop and test the merits of a theory of female-on-female assault. The proposed research provide descriptive information on assaults to women and an analysis of injured women with the goal of identifying differences in risk factors by gender of the antagonist. In addition, this research will propose and test an integrated theoretical framework that draws on situational theory, a structural-cultural perspective, and sexual rivalry.

Product: NCJ#199366

Study of Female-on-Female Intentional Injuries in an Urban Community: A Proposal and Test of Gendered Theory (2002) – N. Hirschinger

In this study, 167 females were injured by other females and 155 females were injured by males. Most injured women (82 percent) were victimized by acquaintances/friends or family members. Violence against women by other women tended to occur in the view of witnesses. The most prevalent form of a violent act was one-on-one bodily physical contact (83 percent), and the most frequents location of injury was the head or face. A significant minority (23 percent) were stabbed or cut. Multivariate logistic regression revealed that women were more likely to engage in violence over relationship issues and personal esteem, and were more likely to report physical abuse by a mother figure during childhood. In contrast, women injured by men were more likely to sustain an injury during predatory crime and to have a history of partner abuse. This report advises that future policies should recognize the adaptation function of violence in the lives of urban females; recognize the central role of relationship in the lives of women, develop conflict prevention/intervention programs and policies based on a gendered approach; recognize the drug/alcohol and violence nexus and weapon availability; recognize the diverse roles assumed by females involved in violence; increase public safety within communities; and recognize the need to minimize cultural stereotypes against Black females and the risk of victim blaming.

2005-WG-BX-0007:	Stalking Victim’s Journey: Offender Patterns, Victim Help-Seeking and the Criminal Justice Response
Amount:	\$277,807
PI:	Chris O’Sullivan
Program Officer:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Completed

This study will examine how interactions between victim assistance, criminal justice system, victims, and stalkers influence the short and long term persistence, escalation, and desistance of stalking among crime victims in New York City. This study will also examine differential patterns of help-seeking, criminal justice, and social services responses across cultural groups. The prospective design will include in-depth structured interviews to be conducted with a sample of 200 women who may not have labeled their current or ex-intimate partner’s behavior as stalking. The interview instrument will capture data in seven domains: (1) demographic information/individual history on the victim and stalker; (2) prior relationship; (3) stalking behaviors; (4) physical violence; (5) victim’s knowledge of stalker and stalker’s knowledge of victim; (6) victim’s assessment of stalker’s motivation and risk; and (7) help-seeking and interventions. Multivariate analyses will be used to examine relationships among the categorical variables, identify predictors of escalation and measure the correlates of criminal justice and social services interventions. A further goal of this study is to test and refine existing stalker typologies.

Product: NCJ #227220

Understanding Intimate Partner Stalking: Implications For Offering Victim Services (2009) – S. Botuck, P. Berretty, S. Cho, C. Tax, M. Archer, L. Cattaneo

To help fill the knowledge gap regarding best practices in dealing with victims of intimate partner stalking, this study describes the experience of intimate partner stalking as it occurs over time. This study had six objectives: (1) Describe the stalking behaviors the participants experienced over the course of the study; (2) Describe participants’ stalking-related experiences in terms of perceived safety and stalking-related distress; (3) Describe participants’ physical and mental health status over the course of the study; (4) Describe the relationships among these experiences and their relationship to stalking behavior over time; (5) Describe the extent of participants’ contacts with criminal justice and victim assistance sources over the course of the study; and (6) Describe the relationships between stalking and contacts with criminal justice and victim assistance sources. Through this study, the authors concluded the following: (1) there is no consistently effective intervention across time points; neither contact with victim service nor with criminal justice professionals is uniformly effective; (2) what is helpful to victims appears to change over time; (3) practice should be conducted with an explicit understanding that what works today may not work tomorrow; and (4) contingencies for future contact with sources of help should be outlined.

2007-WG-BX-0013:	Custody Evaluators’ Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations
Amount:	\$318, 212
PI:	Daniel Saunders
Program Officer:	Bethany Backes
Status:	Completed

The goal of this research is to reduce violence against women and their children by improving the knowledge and ability of custody evaluators and other professionals who make recommendations to the court regarding child custody and visitation matters. The safety of women can be jeopardized when ongoing intimate partner violence is not adequately considered in the court arrangements regarding child custody and visitation. Ultimately this study aims to prevent violent crimes against women by eliminating particular vulnerable occasions and having decision-makers focus on the safety needs of abused mothers at times of separation. The study will investigate the extent to which child custody evaluators and other professionals who make family court recommendations hold the belief that women commonly make false allegations of domestic violence in divorce proceedings. Both quantitative and qualitative methods will be used. In a survey of beliefs, the primary respondents will be 445 custody evaluators. In addition, 70 family court judges and relevant court staff will participate in the survey. For comparison purposes, 70 domestic violence advocates will also be surveyed. Qualitative interviews will be conducted with 24 noncustodial domestic abuse survivors in four states. A review of their custody evaluation documents will be conducted. In addition, interviews will be conducted with the key decision-makers in their cases. The findings of the study will form the foundation for studies of training for decision makers and for policy development.

Product: NCJ# 238891

Child Custody Evaluators' Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations: Their Relationship to Evaluator Demographics, Background, Domestic Violence Knowledge and Custody – Visitation Recommendations (2011) – Daniel G. Saunders, Kathleen C. Faller, Richard M. Tolman

There were four study objectives. One objective was to investigate the extent to which child custody evaluators and other professionals who make court recommendations believe allegations of domestic violence are false. A second objective was to examine the association between these beliefs and knowledge of domestic violence as well as recommendations about custody, supervised visitation, and mediation. A third objective was to determine whether beliefs about false allegations of domestic violence are related to beliefs that false allegations of child abuse are common; that abuse of parents should not be a criterion in custody and visitation decisions; and that parents often alienate their children from the other parent. A fourth objective was to explore the relationships between beliefs about false allegations and beliefs about patriarchal norms, social dominance, and justice in the world. Based on study findings, implications are drawn for additional research and for practice. Implications for practice pertain to the acquisition of knowledge about specific domestic violence topics, information on false allegations of domestic violence and false allegations of child abuse, and custody recommendations. Practice implications are also discussed regarding how beliefs about false allegations of domestic violence relate to other beliefs and to custody-visitation recommendations; professional degrees, roles, and settings; inquiring about and screening for domestic violence; the selection of custody evaluators by courts; and expanding supervised visitation and exchange programs. The two major components of the study involved a survey of professionals who had experience with custody cases and interviews with domestic abuse survivors who had lost child custody.

2012-W9-BX-0049:	Expanding Use of the Social Reactions Questionnaire Among Diverse Women
Amount:	\$499,813
PI:	Anne DePrince
Program Officer:	Bethany Backes

This study addresses Ullman's (2010) call as well as additional goals that will advance ways that the Social Reactions Questionnaire (SRQ) is used to inform criminal justice practice and policy. Goal 1 addresses the need to understand social reactions of different actors following sexual assault. The research team will modify the SRQ instructions to ask participants to think about responses anchored to three groups: (1) social support system members (e.g., family/partners versus friends); (2) criminal justice-based personnel (e.g., law enforcement, system-based advocates, prosecution); and (3) community-based victim service providers (e.g., rape crisis personnel, medical personnel, counselors, community-based advocates). Goal 2 addresses the need for research with diverse women. Extending preliminary work from their research group, they will examine whether women from diverse racial/ethnic groups, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses report different social reactions, controlling for characteristics of the sexual assault. They will also identify case and victim characteristics that predict positive and negative social reactions by social support system members, criminal justice-based personnel, and community-based victim service providers. Goal 3 addresses the need for longitudinal research. The research team will examine women's reports of social reactions to sexual assault longitudinally, testing hypotheses about the interrelationships among social reactions, victim well-being, and criminal justice variables (e.g., victim engagement). This project involves a partnership with the Sexual Assault Interagency Council (SAIC) to recruit sexual assault victims in close proximity to the assault. Based on the demographics of similar samples recruited by this research team in collaboration with SAIC members, they anticipate the recruitment of 225 adult women (ages 18 and older) who are diverse with regard to race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. The team will use nonproportional quota sampling to ensure recruitment of equal numbers of women from ethnic groups for the purposes of intergroup comparisons. Participants will complete an initial 3-hour interview and will be invited for follow-up interviews at multiple time points to test longitudinal questions.

2013-IJ-CX-0009:	Using Individual Differentiation of Behavioral Patterns to Link Serial Rape Offenses: A Multidimensional Approach
Amount:	\$18,000
PI:	Marina Sorochinski
Program Officer:	Bethany Backes
Status:	Completed

The purpose of this project is to help improve the law enforcement investigative practices for serial rape by identifying empirically based and methodologically sound ways of linking crime series. An effective linking process (e.g. the timely recognition that multiple crimes are part of a series) could expedite rape investigations and assure the successful capture of the suspect in a timely fashion. The current data set consists of 29 series with a minimum of three and a maximum of 15 crimes per series. All crimes were committed by male offenders acting alone, who together are responsible for a total of 192 victims (i.e. distinct assault incidents). Variables that will be used in this study were coded using the Homicide Profiling Index, Revised for Use with Rape (HPI-R, Salfati, 2010), an instrument specifically devised for use with police files. The study aims to: (1) identify the behavioral trajectories within the three key behavioral dimensions of rape offenses identified in the literature; namely violence, sexual activity, and control; (2) determine whether these patterns or trajectories can be used for correctly linking together crimes that belong to the same series. Aim #1 will be accomplished using a multidimensional scaling technique called Partial Order Scalogram Analysis with Coordinates (POSAC) that allows for both quantitative and qualitative differentiation. Once the individual dimension trajectories are identified, configural frequency analysis (CFA) will be used to determine the most and least common cross-dimensional trajectories. This information will then be used to accomplish Aim #2, using a multinomial regression analysis to determine whether the identified trajectories can be used to successfully link crimes.

Product: NCJ# 248832

Assumptions Underlying Behavioral Linkage Revisited: A Multidimensional Approach to Ascertaining Individual Differentiation and Consistency in Serial Rape (2015) – Marina Sorochinski

Using individual differentiation analysis, the study confirmed that sexual offenses can be differentiated based on the degree and subtype of the behavioral dimensions or methods used to control the victim, the use of violence, and patterns of sexual activity in the rape. The analysis of consistency in these behaviors within and across these dimensions at various crime scenes determined that, although none of the offenders exhibited total consistency across behavioral dimensions, a subsample of offenders remained fully consistent in at least one of the behavioral measures. In addition, of those who were not consistent, the vast majority manifested an identifiable trajectory of change. Findings are discussed in the context of psychological theories of behavioral consistency and the practical aspects of advancing the usefulness of behavioral linkage from crime scenes. The data set used for this study consisted of 30 rape series, all committed by male offenders acting alone. They were responsible for 192 distinct sexual assault incidents. The data were obtained from closed, fully adjudicated state and local cases of serial rape. Methods of statistical analysis are described in detail.

For an index of all grants, go to <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572/223572-grants-index.pdf>.